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The Friday Letter

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On the Hill

Now that the 2nd session of the 99th Congress is off and running, a review of the 352 days of legislative activities of the 1st session (January 3 through December 20, 1985) reveals the following statistics:

	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>
Days in session.....	170	152
Hours in session....	1252	965
Congressional Record		
pages of proceedings	18418	13336
Public bills enacted	110	130
Measures introduced...	2651	5126
Quorum calls.....	20	43
Yea-and-nay votes.....	381	255
Measures passed.....	583	596
Bills vetoed.....	0	6
Veto overriden.....	1	1

And some of the resolutions passed in the 1st session that were enacted into public law designating special observances in 1986 include:

PL 99193: Designate 1986 as the Year of the Flag (HJ Res 424),

PL 99202: Designate 1986 as "Save for the U.S.A. Year" (HJ Res 436),

PL 99203: Designate April 20, 1986 as "National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week" (HJ Res 450),

PL 99206: Designate September 21, 1986 as "Ethnic American Day" (SJ Res 32),

PL 99207: Proclaim March 20, 1986 as "National Agriculture Day" (SJ Res 70),

PL 99208: Proclaim January 19-25, 1986 as "National Jaycee Week" (SJ Res 312),

PL 99220: Designate week of January 12, 1986 as "National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Week" (SJ Res 180),

PL 99231: Designate 1986 as the "Sesquicentennial Year of the National Library of Medicine" (SJ Res 198),

PL 99232: Designate week of January 26-February 1, 1986 as "Truck and Bus Safety Week" (SJ Res 235).

Bill Tlucek

Graduate School Sponsors Briefings on Balanced Budget Law

Three sessions of an executive briefing on the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget law have been scheduled by the Graduate School, USDA.

The briefing will provide an overview of the major provisions of the balanced budget act. Participants will discuss a systematic approach to identifying programs to be included or excluded from potential budget reductions. Procedures for calculating and implementing the cuts will be offered.

The sessions will be held Tuesday, Feb. 4 and Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Graduate School, USDA, 600 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington. Each session runs from 8:30 a.m. until noon. The fee is \$95.

Reservations may be made by calling 447-3247. For those with confirmed reservations, payment (training authorization, check, money order, VISA, Mastercard, or Choice) will be accepted at the door. The number of participants is limited to allow opportunity for discussion. Reservations will be accepted on a first call, first accepted basis.

For reservations or additional information, telephone 447-3247.

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of November with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Nov. 1984</u>	<u>Oct. 1985</u>	<u>Nov. 1985 2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	20.0	19.2	19.5
Value of bonus coupons (\$mil.)	902.5	879.6	884.9
Average bonus per person	\$ 45.21	\$ 45.71	\$ 45.39
Total program cost (\$mil.)	983.7	960.8	966.0
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	89.4	89.6	89.6
Children participating (mil.)	23.9	24.1	24.2
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.7	11.7	11.8
Percentage of lunches served free	41.8	42.1	42.0
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.8	6.7	6.8
Total program cost (\$mil.)	320.7	391.8	327.9
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	34.8	34.8	34.8
Children participating (mil.)	3.6	3.6	3.6
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	88.7	88.5	88.6
Total program cost (\$mil.)	40.9	49.8	43.0
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	34.5	38.5	33.3
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	20.0	22.8	21.3
Percentage of all meals served free	78.1	77.9	78.2
Total program cost (\$mil.)	37.5	42.6	38.3
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.1	3.3	3.3
Food cost (\$mil.)	96.5	107.5	105.2
Total program cost (\$mil.)	120.5	133.8	129.0
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program:</u>			
People participating (thous.)	140.0	146.8	137.0
Total program cost (\$mil.)	2.6	3/	3/
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	102	104	104
People participating (thous.)	132.8	141.2	137.4
Total program cost (\$mil.)	4.1	4.2	4.1

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of January 24, 1986.

3/ Data not available.

Food and Nutrition Service
Program Information Division

School Lunch Week

"WRO Style"

WRO recognized 52 local school lunch programs in six states and the Trust Territories during the Region's observance of National School Lunch Week.

Regional Administrator **R. Hicks Elmore** presented a USDA Certificate of Appreciation to the Fresno Unified School District's Food Services Director and received in exchange a very special school cap.



Regional Administrator **R. Hicks Elmore** presents Certificate of Merit for an "Outstanding School Lunch Program" to Fresno, California, Unified School District.

In other awards, Assistant Regional Administrator **Jack Bradley** and Assistant Child Nutrition Director **Jack Bennett** presented an award to **Julie Dutcher**, Director of Food Services at East Side Union High School in San Jose. Regional Director of Field Operations, **Karen Howard**, presented awards to two districts within the Los Angeles area while the WRO Field Staff presented an additional 20 awards to school districts throughout the region. Those award-winning School Lunch programs that WRO staff couldn't personally visit received Certificates of Appreciation from State and local officials.



In Fresno, California, posing for the camera, are WRO Regional Administrator **R. Hicks Elmore**, two students from Baird Elementary School and school Principal **Wayne Snell**.



Linda Flackus, Portland, Oregon Field Office, presents award to Aumsville, Oregon Food Service Manager **Gail Martin**.

The special efforts of the WRO staff are paying off. This year's campaign gained great visibility for the School Lunch Program and already they have received 80 newspaper clippings and scored both T.V. and radio coverage at nine of the presentations attended by USDA personnel. Feedback from state agencies, state school food service associations, and school districts personnel has been overwhelmingly positive. Some excerpts:

- School Lunch Week Cont.

"...we'd like to thank you for the award. We considered it quite an honor and it got us a lot of attention and respect."

-Iris Smith, Tenino, Washington

"We are extremely pleased that USDA has honored San Diego with 2 of the 10 awards in the state."

-Florine Belanger, San Diego County, Office of Education

"The Personnel Director...and I have planned a special staff lunch break. We will set up a luncheon table, complete with fresh flowers and present each cafeteria with it's own certificate for display... What a morale booster!"

-Pearl Loutzenheiser, Phoenix, Arizona

"Many communities as well as school districts participated in the award ceremonies. There was lots of positive media coverage. As a result, there is increased pride and suport for the School Lunch program."

-Washington State School Food Association

"It was super!"

-Mimi Graves, Sumner, Washington

state-sponsored toll-free number for recipients who are interested in having an EFNEP nutrition aide work with them on an individual basis. Callers are referred to their local extension office.

Hotline staff will record and evaluate referrals. For example, approximately 40 calls were received after the first pamphlet was mailed.

In September 1986, recipients will be given the opportunity to write for a free 30-page booklet of low-cost recipes to test which method of contact generates the most responses.

CES will arrange showings of the MYFDC slide tape presentation in district welfare offices. Four slide tape presentations have been converted to four continuous-loop tapes. They will be shown on audio viewers in the offices on a rotating basis. The average waiting period is estimated at 12-15 minutes, which is approximately the length of one showing.

According to Phil Davis, MYFDC Coordinator, New Hampshire Division of Welfare, EFNEP cooperation has made it possible to implement the project with no problems and minimum costs.

EFNEP Coordinator Valerie Long praised the cooperation of Food Stamp Program staff. She said the only problem has been a delay in setting up the slide tape show due to staffing shortages in her office.

"I hope that the project will be continued in the next fiscal year," she said. "If it is, CES may consider establishing its own hotline to handle inquiries more personally."

-Story by NERO Public Affairs Staff

Shopping Tips Mailed to New Hampshire Food Stamp Households

All food stamp households in New Hampshire will receive a Make Your Food Dollars Count (MYFDC) pamphlet each quarter in a nutrition education project being conducted by the Food Stamp Program and the Cooperative on Service (CES).

Food stamp coupons are mailed each month. One pamphlet was mailed with the coupons in September; a second one in December; and the remaining ones will be mailed in March and June.

In addition, the monthly statement of food stamp benefits includes a referral to CES. The December message lists a

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GS-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, apply directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

Job Title	Series	Grade	Closing Date	Vacancy Number	Organizational Unit
Computer Programmer Analyst***	GS-334	13	02-10-86	86-04	IRMD
Contract Specialist**	GS-1102	11/12	02-11-86	86-05	ASD
Management Analyst*** (Detail/Temporary Promotion - NTE 8 months, with possibility of becoming permanent)	GS-343	12/13*	02-11-86	86-06	FNP
Management Analyst**** (Temporary NTE 1 year)	GS-343	9	02/05/86	86-07	PED
Statistician	GS-1530	7/9/11	02-11-86	86-H-01	HNIS
Secretary Typing**	GS-318	5	02-11-86	85-H-35	HNIS

*Correction made to grade

**Government Wide

***FNS Nationwide

****FNS Headquarters

IRMD - Information Resources Management Division

ASD - Administrative Services Division

FNP - Family Nutrition Programs

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service

